

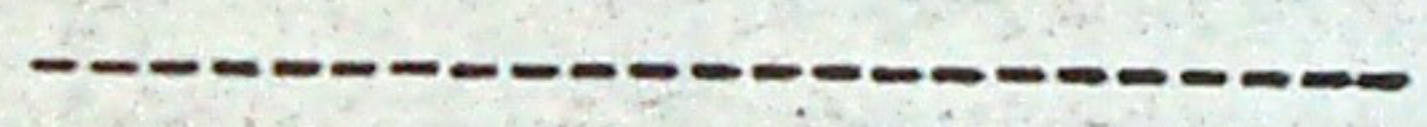
Whits S. Dilley
Little Cheat Mountain

its murky way they scattered. All sense of direction was lost. The soldiers were cold, lost and bewildered. They threw away their guns and engaged in a mad scramble to get out. Most of them found their way back to Camp Bartow or to Lee's camp, but it was several days before they were in shape to present a warlike front.

The attack of September 14, on Elkwater had failed because the mountains took a hand in it.

On the next day, Lee sent down from his Valley Mountain Camp a reconnoitering party under the command of Major John A. Washington. This party was sent to see if Loring had gotten across Cheat with his troops. They got to near the Federal breastworks and were fired upon. Major Washington was killed.

Lee evidently decided not to attack the Federals at either Elkwater or White Top. Anyway there was no more fighting that year on the Randolph and Pocahontas lines.



Here is a bit of history not found in any of the dispatches. It was told to Andrew Price when he taught school at Big Springs on the site of Lee's camp. Told by an eye witness: The summer of 1861 terminated in one of the biggest rains that ever fell in these mountains and produced one of the biggest floods ever known in these streams. This downpour lasted all night and at daybreak next morning both armies, Federal and Confederate had broken camp in the night and both were in headlong retreat.

The Confederates fled south up Old Field Fork of Elk and cut a timber barricade at Crooked Fork at the foot of Elk Mountain (This barricade played a part in other skirmishes later.)

The Federals retreated down Tygarts Valley turned east at Huttonsville and marched toward Staunton and fought the battles at Bartow and Top Allegheny.

Lee having extricated his army went to Richmond. When he found his summer's work reduced to nothing by this great mishap in the jungle, he was inclined to believe the report that the mountain guide had misled his troops and lost them in the wilderness, and for a time it looked as if a certain young Pocahontas County man, who had

S. Dilley
Cheat Mountain

undertaken to guide them, would be hanged. But Lee must have learned that he had been at fault for ordering them to penetrate the Cheat thicket in the night for nobody was executed. (I have not been able to learn who the guide was). This material was taken from W. Va. Blue Book 1928 - from articles by Andrew Price.

When the spruce timber was cut from Cheat Mountain many years after the war, muskets, haversacks, and other articles were found where the army had cast them aside in their escape from the jungle.

In 1927 when the new highway over Middle and Valley Mountains (Seneca Trail) was being graded as Route 24, a great army dump pile was uncovered and all sorts of war trophies ranging from muskets to parts of cannons were found. These were left by Lee's first command in the Civil War.

Places in Pocahontas that were Lee's headquarters in 1861:

1. Valley and Middle Mountains
2. Meadow Bluff on Sept. 24.
3. Tall House at Marlins Bottom
4. At Sewell Mountain on Oct. 20

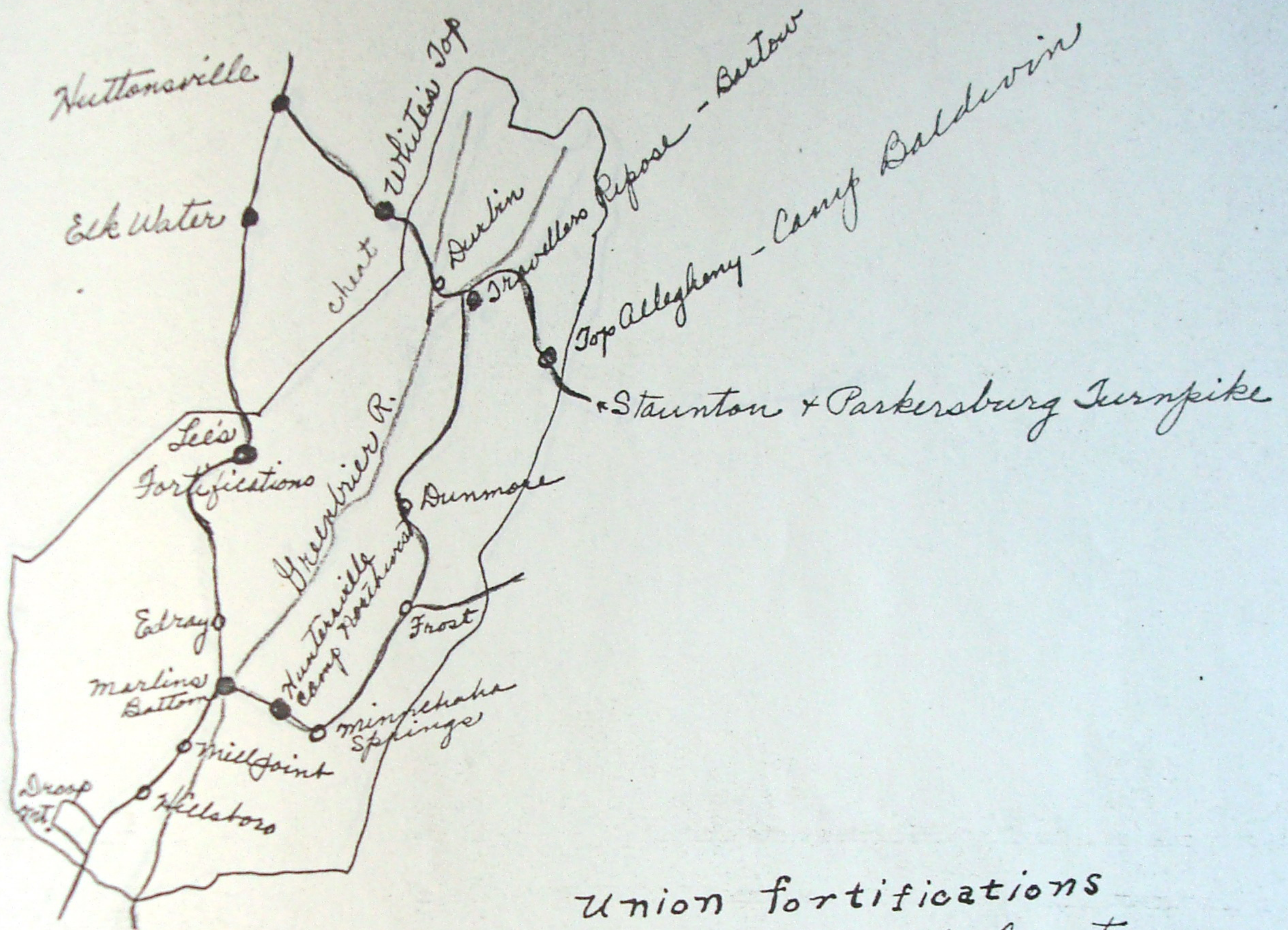
During the year 1861 all of Lee's activities were confined to W. Va. At Richard McNeel's farm near Mill Point, Mrs. McNeel, a Confederate sympathizer; prepared a fine meal but Lee refused to eat it for fear of poison.

Lee's Horse

When Lee was in the Greenbrier Valley, in 1861, he came across the best horse he had ever seen, the grey gelding, Traveler. Foaled in the Little Levels of Pocahontas and developed in the Big Levels of Greenbrier Co. No better horse ever set foot to the road, though this region has produced its thousands like unto the far famed Traveler. (Pocahontas Times).

Juanita D. Dilley
Clover Lick, W. Va.
Feb. 24, 1940

Section 4b-3

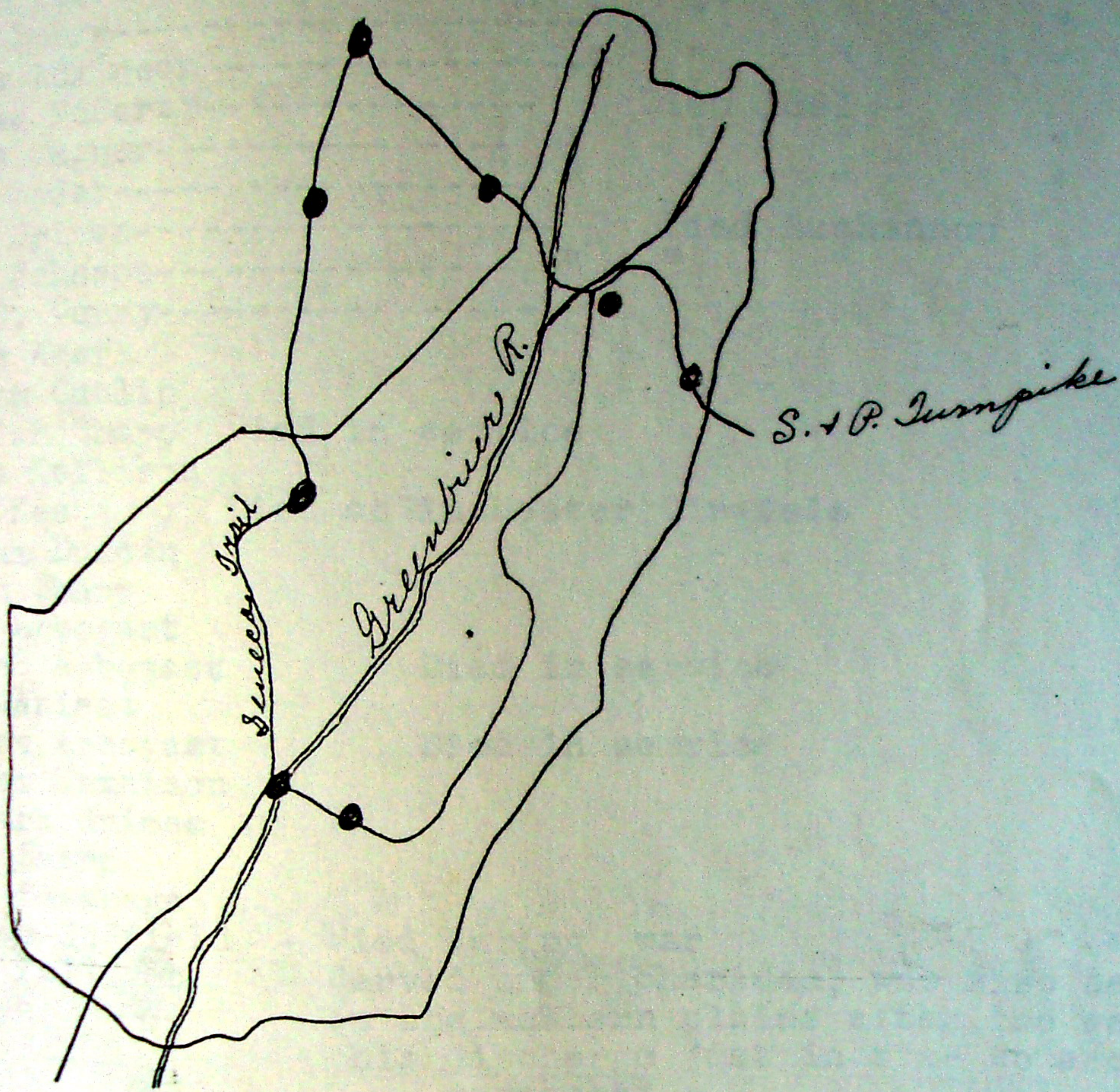


Union fortifications
In Randolph County
at

- Nuttontsville
- Elk Water
- White's Top Shavers Chest

Confederate fortifications
In Pocahontas County

- Travelers Repose - Camp Burtow
- Top Allegheny - Camp Baldwin
- Huntersville - Camp North Mt
- Martins Bottom -
- Valley + Middle Mountain



- Confederate Fortifications
- Federal Fortifications